

JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

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Plus ça change....

The Carter administration's announcement of plans to provide \$4.14 billion in foreign military aid to 49 countries next year, with Israel being the single biggest recipient, is as good an indication as we have yet had recently of exactly where the Americans stand in the Middle East picture. The Israeli military aid package (which does not include economic assistance) stands at an astounding \$1.785 billion for fiscal year 1979, or a full 43 per cent of the American military aid total.

This is the context within which one should realistically appraise the American decision last week to sell fighter planes to Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Israel, because this awesome American aid to Israel is the underpinning of all political and military events in the Middle East. It is quite ludicrous for Israel to say that the Americans are "pressuring" it to make unreasonable concessions while the Americans are providing it with 43 per cent of their total foreign military assistance. It is similarly unrealistic for the Arabs to expect the Americans all of a sudden to suspend or reduce this massive aid effort for Israel in a bid to "pressure" the Begin government to make more reasonable peace proposals.

The Carter administration's latest military aid proposals show very clearly the complexities of America's dilemma in the Middle East, where it has now found itself being a, or the, principal source of economic and military aid to three of the main protagonists, namely Israel, Egypt and Jordan. And while the Arabs can point to American aid as a sign of evenhandedness and friendship, it is conversely and simultaneously true that the continued massive scale of American aid to Israel is the single most important factor in allowing Israel to defy the consensus of the entire world regarding Middle East peace requirements. This week's U.S. military aid proposals show that nothing has changed.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RAI, Thursday regretted what it called the anti-Palestinian slogans lifted in Egypt during the funeral service of the 15 Egyptian commandos who fell dead in Larnaca earlier this week, and ruled out the possibility of Jordan joining the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations at least in the foreseeable future.

The newspaper says Israel now began to concentrate, more than ever before, on the question of signing a separate peace treaty with Egypt, as a result of the negotiations they began late last year.

Al Rai says that to dub the Palestinian people terrorists, is doing injustice to them and is a clear attempt to cover-up Israel's intentions to efface the identity of the Palestinians, who have been and are still suffering during the past 30 years...

"We do not think that President Anwar Sadat would be influenced by these shouts that can never be an expression of the Egyptian people's sentiments towards the Palestinian people and the Palestine issue," the newspaper says.

Photographers wanted

The Jordan Times wants to see the work of photographers with black and white prints of any and all scenes in Jordan, either individual pictures or collections of photo-stories on a single theme. We are interested in publishing individual photos or photo-stories on a regular basis, and we'd like to see the work of local photographers, both Jordanians and non-Jordanians alike.

If you have photos to show or would like to do some feature photos for the Jordan Times, please contact Mr. Khouri at the Jordan Times offices any day between 9:00 and 12:00 a.m. and between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. to make an appointment.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Jordan Times welcomes letters from its readers commenting on material published in the newspaper or on any matter of public interest. Letters should be typed, double-spaced, and preferably not longer than 300 words. They will be edited only for style and grammatical purposes, and letters longer than 300 words may be shortened at the editor's discretion.

Letters should be sent by mail to: The Editor, the Jordan Times, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.



'What We Need to Do in This Quicksand
Is to Keep Thrashing Around.'

Elaborate ritualistic feasts, bound by protocol are mainstay of Arab hospitality, cement friendships and give praise to God

Mohammad ibn Hasan ibn Mohammad ibn Al Karim Al Kathib Al Baghdadi, the thirteenth-century Arab writer, enumerated six kinds of pleasure: food, drink, clothes, sex, scent and sound, the noblest being food. For Al Baghdadi, however, eating was something more than the satisfaction of hunger; it was an important social activity, which brought people together in mutual fellowship and goodwill.

Nor was Al Baghdadi alone in emphasising the social significance of eating, for many other Arab writers, both ancient and modern, have stressed the importance of hospitality in Middle Eastern culture, seeing it not simply as a pleasurable pastime but also a duty.

"If people stand at your door," runs the old Arabic proverb, "don't shut it before them."

Yet another reads: "Give the guest food to eat even though you yourself are starving."

The Holy Koran mentions food many times, stressing its significance as a gift from God. "O ye who believe," runs Sura 2, verse 172, "eat of the good things/ That we have provided for you/ And be grateful to God/ If it is He who worship."

In other words, food, in the Arab World, is much more than the staff of life; it is a means of promoting friendship, and when people eat together they are, in a sense, praising God, who has, in his beneficence, provided them with the means of sustaining life.

Elaborate ritual

Consequently, eating in the

Arab World has its own elaborate ritual, which the faithful are expected to observe, both host and guests following a code of manners which is designed to promote the welfare of all. The host is expected to welcome his guests warmly, and to provide for them in excess of what their appetites would seem to demand, for if after a meal nothing remains, one might think that the guests have been inadequately provided for, and could have eaten more.

At the same time, however much food may have been provided, the host should apologise for not offering more, and is expected to make ex-

The pleasures of the table are an important facet of Arab hospitality, deserving due consideration of the rules of etiquette, as this article by Doctor John Monroe, reprinted from Saudi's inflight magazine, "Ahlan wa Sahlan" reports.

cuses for the supposed meagreness of his offering.

Conversation at meal times should never provoke controversy, and if the guests are guilty of expressing opinions that their host at other times might find arguable, he should nevertheless refrain from entering into a dispute, for to quarrel with them would be a serious breach of good manners.

Thus, guests should know that God is the real provider, and that thanks are due to Him both before and after eating. They should wash their hands before and after eating. Guests should also eat from the dish that is immediately in front of them, and from the side of the dish that is nearest to them; they should take small pieces and chew their food well, and not gaze at the people around them.

Eat well

Nor should the host ask his guests if they would like more food or drink. Instead he should provide them automatically, insisting that they taste them, in spite of repeated refusals.

Consequently, eating in the

Guests too are expected to play their appointed roles. They are expected to eat well, and congratulate the host on the quality of his cuisine. They should immediately take the food that is offered them. Their eating should be unhurried, and enlivened with pleasant gossip and small talk.

On leaving, the guests should thank their host warmly and bless him for his hospitality, and afterwards speak well of him and his household, praising his generosity and kindness.

In traditional households a strict etiquette is observed during meals.

Before eating the word "Bi-

smallah" is uttered by all, meaning "in the name of God", and while nowadays the twelve rules of etiquette as enunciated by the ancient Arab tradition may not be strictly followed, it is expected that their spirit should be observed.

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It is also considered good manners to continue eating small portions of food, even though one may have satisfied his appetite, until the others at table have finished eating, for to stop may be interpreted as an indication that the food should be removed, which would deprive other guests of eating their fill.

Stuffed lamb

Although in many parts of the Arab World the conventional western dining room table and chairs are used, traditionally, Arab dining tables are large round metal trays resting on small stands, and the guests will sit on cushions on the floor, the food being served in a number of small dishes.

The main dish is invariably meat, and in Saudi Arabia especially, one of the most popular dishes for important festive occasions is roasted and stuffed lamb surrounded by mountains of boiled rice and decorated with hard-boiled eggs.

Popular vegetables are aubergines, courgettes, tomatoes, onions, okra and green peppers, which may be boiled or fried in oil, sometimes stuffed with meat sauce or rice, and flavoured with lemon, garlic, pepper, paprika, ground coriander, cinnamon or ginger, or soaked in yoghurt.

Coffee ceremony

Saffron, the pistil of a certain variety of crocus, is also much appreciated, and is used both for colouring and for its faint, delicate aroma.

Invariably, small cups of bitter coffee are served at the

end of a meal, the most important guest being served first and the most senior present next.

This means that just as social procedures governing eating are deeply traditional, so are the dishes themselves. Many, indeed, have been cooked for centuries, and have remained virtually unchanged to the present day, individual cooks improvising only within rather narrowly defined limits.

Eating in the Arab World is therefore an integral part of the culture, the mainstay of the traditional Arab virtue of hospitality. Unlike many other parts of the world where food is regarded as essentially a source of energy, the Middle East continues its age old practice of offering food as a means of satisfying both the mind and the body, promoting social well-being, and not least of all as a reminder of God's bounty.

WANTED

Second hand inexpensive automobile
black plates cash.

Please call telephone 42028.

Does Amman need an International High School for expats?

AMMAN, Feb. 23 (JT). — Moves are underway to establish a full international High School for expatriate children in Amman. A meeting to ascertain the exact needs for such a school is to be the subject of a meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 28 at the American Community School auditorium. Self appointed catalyst in initiating the movement to establish the new school is Paul S. C. Smith, founder of the Baptist School in Amman.

Mr. Smith stresses that the school is not a fact, rather a desire felt on the part of many parents of International High School students who have now to leave Jordan to finish their English language high school education".

A survey is now being conducted amongst expatriate families in Amman to ascertain the actual need for school year 1978-79 for 10th, 11th and 12th grade classes.

The International High School, if established, would follow an American curriculum and would be open to non-Jordanian students. A form is being distributed through the American Community School inviting parents to declare their intentions for their high school age children for next year.

Mr. Smith, who is now the Chairman of the Southern Baptist Mission in Jordan, says the International High School would have no official connection with the Baptist Mission, American Community School, any foreign embassy or country.

If it is started in September, its total support will be from tuition fees from students.

A Board elected "by the parents" will later assume responsibility for the school.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Art Exhibit

The British Council, in cooperation with the Department of Culture and Art, presents an exhibition of works by four young Jordanian artists. Today is the last day.

Forest planting postponed

AMMAN, Feb. 23 (JNA). — The launching of a new forest at the district of Yalouz which was to have taken place Friday has been postponed until further notice due to heavy rainfall at the site of the forest.



Fresh fruit and vegetables, readily available throughout Amman, make for tasty local meals.

social lapses not to include a dish that is so well known as to be expected.

This means that just as social procedures governing eating are deeply traditional, so are the dishes themselves. Many, indeed, have been cooked for centuries, and have remained virtually unchanged to the present day, individual cooks improvising only within rather narrowly defined limits.

Eating in the Arab World is therefore an integral part of the culture, the mainstay of the traditional Arab virtue of hospitality. Unlike many other parts of the world where food is regarded as essentially a source of energy, the Middle East continues its age old practice of offering food as a means of satisfying both the mind and the body, promoting social well-being, and not least of all as a reminder of God's bounty.

Also, while Arab tables are invariably lavish, it is customary to find the same dishes being served in all households of a particular community.

The reason for this is simply that as the host is primarily concerned with ensuring the goodwill and satisfaction of his guests, it would be a



This violent poster display advertising a film is itself subject to violent damage in Beirut's Place des Martyrs. The picture underscores the tension filled mood of the Lebanese capital today.

(Picture by Barbara Beesley)

National News Roundup

Envoy presents credentials

AMMAN, Feb. 23 (JNA). — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Viceroy, received at Raghada Palace today the credentials of the non-resident ambassadors of Finland and Canada to the Royal Hashemite Court. The ceremonies were attended by the minister of state for foreign affairs and the secretary general of the Royal Hashemite Court.

Denmark lends JD 2.7 million to Jordan

AMMAN, Feb. 23 (JNA). — Denmark is to grant Jordan a fifty-million-Krone loan (equivalent to JD 2.7 million) to finance the construction of cold store and the purchase of electric generators and other equipment, according to an agreement signed here today. Three warehouses for the preservation of agricultural products are to be built: one in Amman with a capacity reaching 4,000 tons; another in the Jordan Valley with a capacity of about 1,500 tons and a third in the port city of Aqaba with an estimated capacity of 3,000 tons. The loan will be the third of its kind in the course of economic cooperation between Denmark and Jordan. The agreement was signed by the chairman of the National Planning Council and the Danish ambassador to Jordan.

Housing Corporation signs agreement for new town

AMMAN, Feb. 23 (JNA). — The Housing Corporation and a Swiss firm have signed an agreement by which the firm undertakes to draw up a design for the construction of the New Abu Nusseir Town north of Amman. According to the agreement, the design will cost JD 300,000 and will have to be completed in eighteen months. The director of the Housing Corporation, who signed the agreement with the firm, told the Jordan News Agency that the new town will house about 40,000 people in 6,500 units, to be built on an area 2,300 dunums. Estimated cost of construction is JD 50,000,000.

Cinema critics wanted

The Jordan Times is looking for a qualified film critic to review films that are screened in Amman, both in the commercial cinemas as well as the cultural centres. We would like someone with previous experience in writing film reviews, and a proven expertise in the field of cinema and the performing arts in general. The position would probably involve writing one or two reviews per month, perhaps increasing to three or four per month with time. Interested persons who have the above qualifications and are interested in writing reviews for the Jordan Times should contact Mr. about by telephone at the Jordan Times, at 67171, any time between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., and between 5:00-9:00 p.m.

Jordan to participate in FAO meeting

AMMAN, Feb. 23 (JNA). — Jordan is to take part in the meeting of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) agricultural committee which are to open in Rome on March 2nd. Delegates to the ten-day meeting are scheduled to discuss agricultural cooperation among participating nations, particularly in technical fields and the exchange of expertise. The under-secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Said Ghazzawi will represent Jordan at the meeting.

Student's Day celebrated

AMMAN, Feb. 23 (JNA). — All schools in the kingdom observed Student's Day today. Special celebrations were held at different schools; and teachers and students made speeches on the occasion underlining the importance of education and students' role in the building up of their country.

Pension Fund to invest in projects

AMMAN, Feb. 23 (J.T.). — The Minister of Finance Dr. Mohammad Dabbas today said that the Jordanian Pension Fund capital has increased to JD 18 million and will take part in implementing a number of important projects. Dr. Dabbas told Al Ra'i newspaper Wednesday that in addition to participating in the establishment of the timber complex at Aqaba, the fund will help financing a big market centre behind Jordan Hotel Intercontinental and a commercial scheme on the Wadi Seer road. It will further carry out a number of joint ventures in cooperation with the Amman Municipality and the Housing Bank, the Finance Minister said.

Jordanian, Kuwaiti science organisations cooperate on research

AMMAN, Feb. 23 (JNA). — The Kuwaiti Institute for Scientific Research and the Jordanian Royal Scientific Researches and Studies for comprehensive development purposes in both countries, the Director of the Kuwaiti Institute, Dr. Adnan Shihab Al Deen, said Wednesday. Dr. Shihab Al Deen, who attended the Science and Technology policy conference, which has just ended in Amman, said that during his stay in Jordan he discussed with Jordanian officials the possibility of the institute and the RSS cooperating in executing a number of solar energy projects such as central heating and air conditioning of houses and refrigeration in the Aqaba area. He said that a number of Kuwaiti scientists and researchers will visit the RSS early next month to discuss possible implementation of these joint ventures within a given timetable.

Soviets give celebration party

AMMAN, Feb. 23 (JNA). — The Soviet embassy this evening held a reception on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Soviet Army and Navy. The party was attended by heads of diplomatic missions in Jordan, and a number of officials and guests.

Narcotics dealers arrested

AMMAN, Feb. 23 (J.T.). — An official source at the Narcotics Section of the Public Security Department said yesterday that it arrested a number of hashish dealers and users. The department also arrested an Egyptian who was selling "seconal" and "pectagon" tablets on the desert Highway.

Riziq Da'doush, a driver, was caught while selling a 135 gram piece of hashish in Dec. 1977. This man admitted that he got the narcotic from another man called Abu Safi who was later arrested while in possession of six packets of hashish. Abu Safi said another two pieces of hashish were with another man called Abd Abu Shama, who was arrested on the basis of this information.

The source also said that another offender, Mohammad Issam, was arrested while selling a piece of hashish. His house was searched and another piece of the same drug, weighing 105 grams, was found. He admitted that he and Ali Samara bought the hashish from Adam Sabah who was arrested in possession of five pieces of hashish.

Econoscope

By Jawad Ahmad

War technology

should take priority

In sitting through the procedures and discussions of the Jordan Science and Technology Policy Conference, I was extremely enthused. Listening to various talents narrating their own relevant experiences is a rare and rewarding experience.

Yet there was one major aspect which thus far, and to the best of my knowledge, has not been discussed. This is namely military technology and its links with civil technology and industry.

Let us face the grim fact that war is the best source of peace industry and technology. History teaches us that overcoming military technological bottlenecks is the main source of civil industrial progress.

Archimedes was said to have developed the use of mirrors as weapon in order to defend his city. In more recent history, the Ottomans who welcomed every innovative idea to improve their military efficiency reversed some of them after a time-gap to civil technology and industry.

In our recent history and present, one may pose a number of questions which, prima facie, seem hypothetical, but are relevant indeed.

What would be the status of the aeroplane

industry if the emergent need to develop aircraft during the world wars did not arise?

Mobile bridges, biochemical inventions, germs, cars and heavy equipment mobiles, road construction and other examples serve as clear-cut evidence to the contribution of war to human welfare. Let's not forget telecommunications, radio, and electronics which are colouring our everyday life.

The current space craze and man's drive to conquer new horizons have also had a great impact on our industries. The space industry is not wholesomely devoted to peace.

Yet the most glaring example which serves my purpose is the development of atomic energy. Now the servicing of this unlimited source of energy in peaceful pursuits is too evident to be even raised. In the thought-provoking lecture delivered by Professor Ramana of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in India there is an obvious link between this scientific branch and civil welfare.

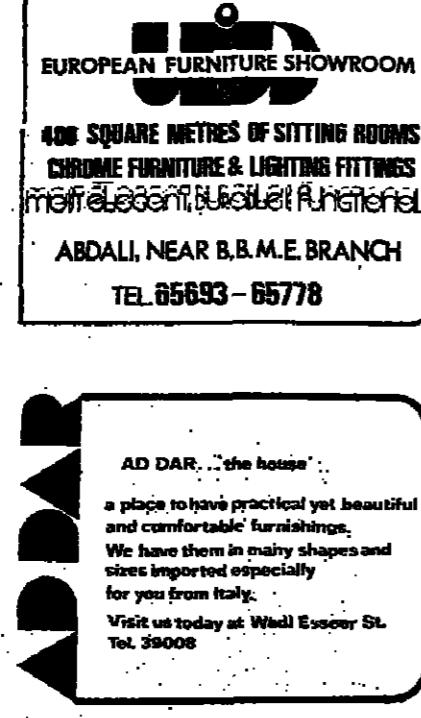
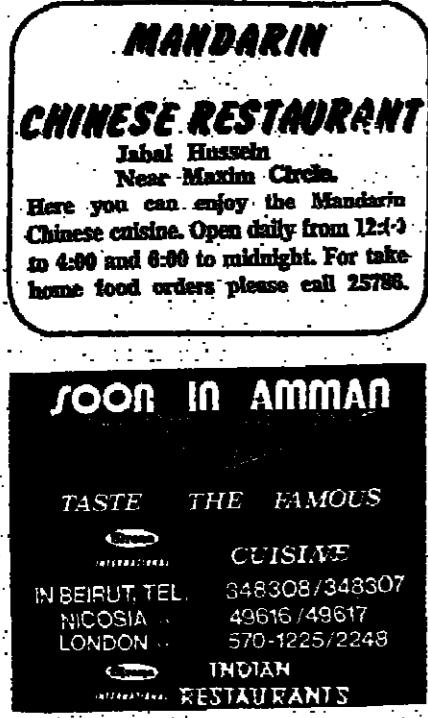
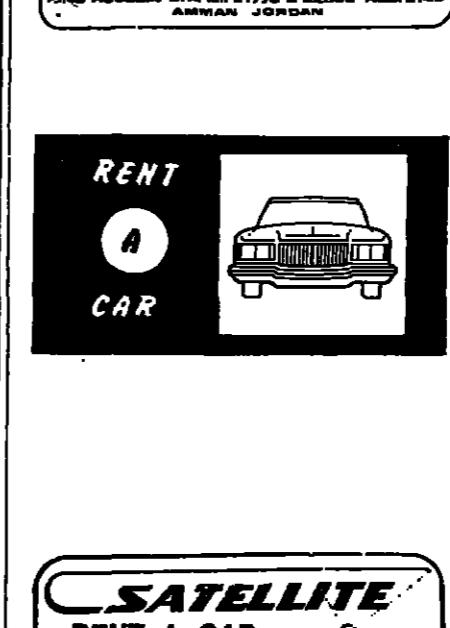
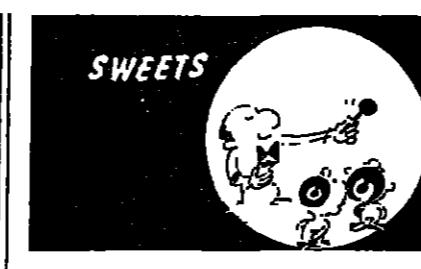
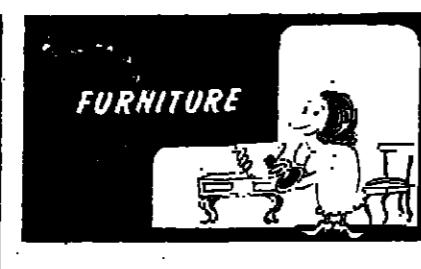
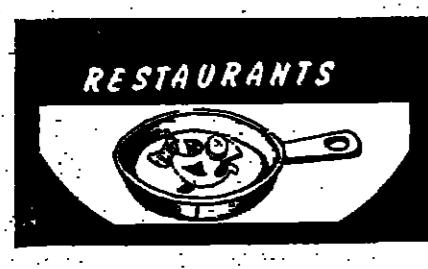
In the Arab Middle East, we need to develop our military technology in order to defend ourselves against an enemy who is developing that technological power.

We also need it in order to maximise the returns we can accrue on our rich and available resources.

Amman Stock Exchange Report

NAME OF COMPANY	Nominal share value	Volume traded	Opening price	Highest selling price	Lowest selling price	Closing price	Last buying bid	Last selling bid
1 Jordan National Bank	JD 5.000	912	6.300	6.250	6.250	6.250	—	—
2 Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	JD 1.000	52	1.200	1.300	1.300	1.300	—	—
3 Jordan Cement Factory	JD 10.000	477	15.950	15.900	15.900	15.900	15.900	16.000
4 Paper and Cardboard Factory	JD 1.000	82	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	—	—
5 Jordan Ceramics Factory	JD 1.000	50	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	—	1.050
6 Jordan Petroleum Co.	JD 5.000	178	6.800	6.850	6.850	6.850	6.850	6.850
* 75 per cent of share capital paid.								
Total volume traded, Thursday, Feb. 23: JD 1,751								

AMMAN MARKETPLACE



Intervention likely as U.S. mine owners refuse to meet miners

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (R). — Mine owners have rejected a government request to meet striking miners, setting the stage for federal intervention in America's longest coal strike. Labour Secretary Ray Marshall emerged from a meeting with negotiators for the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) late last night to announce their latest refusal to sit down with United Mine Workers Union (UMW) negotiators.

"There will be a meeting at the White House tomorrow morning to determine the future course of action," he said.

Earlier, Mr. Marshall had said that the government was willing to continue to mediate between the two sides, which broke off direct talks last weekend, "as long as we think it is leading anywhere."

The owners' point-blank refusal to meet the leaders of the 160,000 miners after Mr. Marshall spent the day talking separately to the two sides clearly indicated the talks were getting nowhere.

President Carter now has the options of invoking the

30-year-old Taft-Hartley Act

and ordering the miners back to work, using federal troops to seize the mines, or ordering binding arbitration.

Invoking the 80-day cooling off period prescribed by the Taft-Hartley Act is not thought to be a very strong choice because miners have previously ignored it.

They also turned down yesterday a proposal from representatives of the 130 mine owners to submit to binding arbitration, saying this would eliminate miners' rights to negotiate a new contract by membership ballot.

Mr. Marshall said last night his talks founded when the

Spain fails to cash in on

Arab World opportunities

MADRID, Feb. 23 (R). — Although Spain enjoys good relations with Arab countries, it has not cashed in on commercial and financial opportunities open to foreign investors since the oil boom, a prominent Arab banker said today.

Mr. Abdulla Saudi, Chairman of the Libyan Arab Foreign Bank, told a business conference here Spain had failed to follow the example of other industrialised countries which launched an aggressive sales policy in the Arab World to offset the effects of oil price rises.

The Middle East and Northern Africa have been the fastest expanding areas for trad-

ing and opportunities and the focus of concentration and competition in the last few years," Mr. Saudi said.

"But the Arab-Spanish

relationship in commercial and financial fields shows a tremendous deficit on the part of Spain and until now Spain has not gained a strong position in the Arab countries in any special field," he added.

Mr. Saudi noted that Spain had managed to attract Arab finance in one successful venture -- the Arab-Spain Bank.

This had participated syndicated loans for Spain amounting to more than two billion dollars since it was established in 1975, Mr. Saudi said.

New technique may rival the X-ray

By Paul Harrison

An apparently harmless rival to X-rays is being developed at an English university which could help in the fight against cancer as well as perform the same service as X-rays without the radiation.

LONDON, (WFS) — A new diagnostic technique which could rival the X-ray, and also detect cancer, is being developed at Nottingham University in the English Midlands.

Scientists there have used nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) imaging to produce "pictures" of fruit, animals and a human wrist. Now they are working on the construction of a bigger machine which could take pictures of a whole human body.

The technique uses external magnetic fields to reverse the poles in the magnetic fields produced by atomic nuclei in matter. The team at Nottingham -- one of a number working in this field in Britain and the United States -- has produced pictures as highly defined as those of the X-ray. The magnetic force has no after-effects, while X-ray machines used all over the world produce harmful radiation.

No known hazard with NMR.

One of the Nottingham scientists, Mr. Neil Holland, said that privately doctors admit they would like to get away from the hazard of using X-rays on their patients. "The great advantage of NMR is that there is no known hazard," he said.

A great deal of research has been carried out on NMR, which was discovered in the late 1940s and called "zeugmatography" by an American Professor, P. C. Lauterbur. It was first used as a method of investigating complex molecules and chemical reactions, but it now seems that its potential is much greater.

The Nottingham team is convinced there are no ill-effects, partly because of the mass of past research, and because of their own work. "We have had our limbs inside the machine, and nothing has happened," said Mr. Holland. He added that when the life-size model is completed -- in about 18 months -- the scientists will be the first ones inside it.

In the picture of a wrist which NMR has produced, the bones and tissue appear as light areas, while the marrow and fatty areas appear as dark patches. Blood in the veins and arteries is light due to its motion during the imaging process.

The three scientists involved -- Dr. W. Hinshaw, Mr. P. Bottomley and Mr. Holland -- believe that their pictures are the most highly resolved to date. "We have proved that, in principle, it works," said Mr. Holland.

X-rays were discovered in 1895 by Professor Rontgen of Wurzburg, West Germany. They are used by doctors and dentists and represent the largest man-made source of radiation to which people are exposed.

Other uses

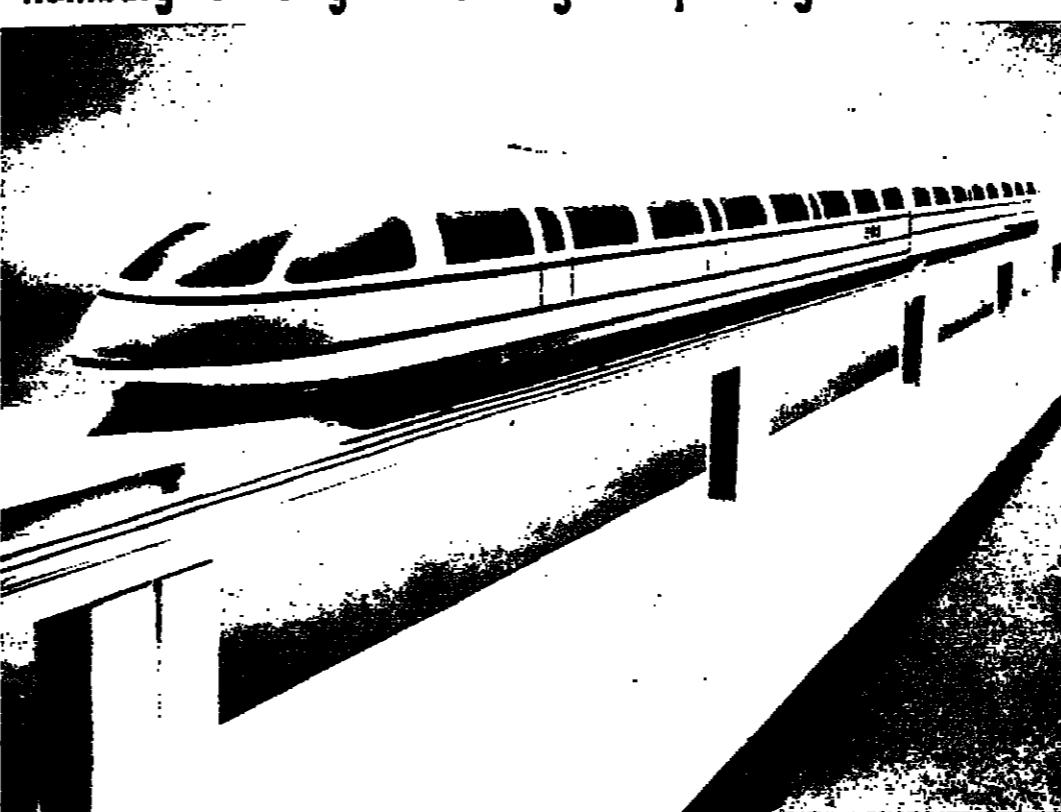
Apart from the NMR's eventual potential as a rival to the X-ray, it may also have a role to play in detecting cancer. It has been shown that it can differentiate between normal and cancerous tissues. It is its promise in the fight against cancer which has spurred research in the United States particularly.

In other ways, too, it is being found to have potential. The Nottingham team believes that there is a chance of tissue characterisation, for example, to detect dead tissue after heart attack, and also in improved methods for measuring blood flow.

One other possible medical application is in the imaging of fluorine in order to follow the changing chemical behaviour and physical distribution of fluorine compounds. Fluorine-bearing drugs can be introduced as tracers.

The team of scientists at Nottingham have found that their greatest problem is publicising their work for the medical profession to see. "We have to convince the medical profession of its viability," said Mr. Holland. A report of their work was published in a British scientific publication in December, and since then, they say, they have made considerable advances. "We are learning all the time," said Mr. Holland.

Hamburgers to get first regular passenger hovertrain



The world's first hovertrain operating regular passenger services will be the star of next year's international transport trades fair in Hamburg, West Germany. The 304 metres of track on six-metre pylons is already under construction. Operational trials are due to start next January. The service will be inaugurated in June and the entire project dismantled by the end of 1979. The hovertrain, financed by the Bonn Research Ministry, is merely a show-piece that will, it is hoped, interest foreign customers. The manufacturers have experimented with hovertrains for several years and prototypes have reached surprising speeds. But the Hamburg hovertrain will cover too short a distance to set up speed records. It is 26 metres long, seats 68 in comfort and will cruise at a metric 100, or sixty miles per hour, at the most. (DAD photo)

OPEC may have to replace dollar, Qatari petroleum minister says

DOHA, Qatar, Feb. 23 (R). — The Qatari petroleum minister was today quoted as saying that oil producing countries may have to replace the dollar with another currency if the decline in the U.S. currency erodes their revenues.

Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ibn Khalifa said in an interview with the official monthly magazine Al Khaleej Al Jadeed that his country was watching closely the recent downward slide of the dollar.

If the decline began to seriously affect oil revenue, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) would have to move to another currency, he said. But Sheikh Khalifa did not specify what currency might replace the dollar.

World population growth goes into the red

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (R). — The rate of world population growth has peaked and is now declining because of an unexpected drop in the birthrate in developing countries, a group of population experts reported here this week.

"This fertility decline is good news, especially for the world's poor," Dr. Nick Eberstadt of Harvard University's Centre for Population Studies told the annual American Association for the Advancement of Science conference here.

By the year 2000, he said, world population may rise from the present 4.1 billion people to about 5.5 billion. Previous United Nations studies projected a population of 6.5

billion by the time.

According to the Harvard studies, the rate of growth peaked at 1.9 per cent a year around 1970 and fell to 1.7 per cent last year.

Dr. Eberstadt said the decline would make the task of alleviating world poverty that much easier.

"It is in itself a sign that development is reaching the poor people who have children," he said.

Income -- a factor

Another expert, Mr. Parker Maudlin of the Population Council, told the seminar that the rate of decline has accelerated in developing countries much faster than anyone previously realised.

The drop, he said, was three times as great in the 1970s

as the drop in the three previous decades.

Harvard's Dr. Robert Repetto linked the drop to income distribution, citing evidence that the birth rate declined dramatically in such countries as China, Taiwan, South Korea, Malaysia and Sri Lanka -- all of which had witnessed better distribution of wealth in the last two decades.

But little drop was registered in Brazil and the Philippines despite their rapid rates of economic growth.

While income distribution appeared to be a major factor, Dr. William Peterson of Ohio State University said government birth control campaigns, such as the big one mounted in India, appeared to have only a minor impact despite the

millions of dollars spent on them.

In the case of some poor countries, he added, "they may actually have caused fertility to rise."

Some experts speculated that this may be due to the emotional strain imposed on the poor by overzealous efforts to persuade them to practise birth control.

Another population council expert, Mr. Mont Nag, said that where economic benefits are not passed down to the poor, their children represent wealth and security.

"Not until it becomes rational for him (the peasant) to have less" -- that is, until the costs of children rise and their return drops -- "should one expect the birth rates in a nation to come down."

French workers balk at continuation of 16 months of severe wage controls

By Jack Gee

PARIS, (F.T.) — French workers are waxing increasingly restless as the government reaffirms its determination not to relax the severe anti-inflation programme which has curbed wage rises for the past 16 months.

Premier Raymond Barre set an annual ceiling of 6.5 per cent for wage boosts when this veteran economist was chosen to head both the government and the finance ministry in September 1976. Mr. Barre has since ordered the same limits to apply until after the general election in March this year.

His austerity package is the target of growing criticism, not only by the trade unions but by members of the government majority who argue that it could cost them many parliamentary seats at the polls.

The Barre plan has come under fire as a breach of the collective bargaining agreements which are the traditional procedure for establishing wage levels in France.

With Premier Barre exercising personal responsibility for the conduct of the economy as well as running the government, the employers have been relieved to let him take the brunt for the workers' long stint of belt-tightening.

The bosses' organisation, the Confederation Nationale du Patronat Francais, say they cannot be blamed for wage controls which are none of their making.

The unions gave vent to their anger by forgetting their

political differences in May. All their major organisations joined together for the first time for 13 years in backing a 24-hour general strike.

A march through Paris was headed by Georges Seguy, leader of the communist-backed Confederation Generale du Travail (CGT) and Edmond Maire, head of the Confederation Francaise des Travailleurs, whose members are recruited among workers with socialist, extreme left wing or no political allegiance at all.

These two rival organisations, mustering a membership of 3.5 million out of a national total of 3,850,000 card-carrying trade unionists are the driving force behind the opposition to Mr. Barre's programme.

Only 25 per cent of French workers belong to a trade union compared with about 40 per cent in Britain, West Germany, Italy and the Netherlands, 60 per cent in Belgium and 70 per cent in Sweden.

So the impact of the series of strikes which have marked the past 16 months reflect

not so much a well-oiled trade union machine as fundamental hostility to austerity, unemployment and inflation.

These last two aspects of France's economic crisis are proving more intractable than control of wages. The country's 1.2 million jobless -- about 300,000 more than a year ago -- represent six per cent of the working population.

Inflation is running at a rate of almost 10 per cent, twice the level which Premier Barre set at the outset of his austerity programme as the target for its success.

In contrast with Britain, the automobile industry has not suffered from many industrial disputes over the past year. The managing director of the state-owned Renault firm was held prisoner in his office for an entire day in December by workers demanding immediate wage negotiations.

But the automobile boss replied that his hands were tied. He could not yield any more than Premier Barre was prepared to grant.

French car-makers attribute their relatively good relations with the workers to the merger between Peugeot and Citroen in 1976. This was interpreted as a warning that the industry was in fragile health and could succumb to a sustained period of union unrest. Britain's lessons, at least in this respect, appear to have been learned in France.

-- Financial Times
News-Features

Saudi petrochemical industry would not disrupt world markets Saudi official says

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (AP).

Saudi Arabia's minister of industry said yesterday his country's plans to build a petrochemical industry will probably cause the scrapping of petrochemical construction plans in "less sensible areas."

But Ghazi Al Gosabi told the Associated Press that the Saudi plants, to be built in co-operation with American companies, will not disrupt world markets. Saudi production will eventually be only about 4 per cent of world totals, he said.

He said the product mix is being carefully designed to fill predicted demand.

Saudi Arabia is the sensible place to build the plants. Mr. Gosabi said, because of the availability of crude oil and now-flared natural gas for fuel and raw material.

Saudi Arabia, using its huge oil revenues, has planned three petrochemical plants at a new industrial port city being built at Jubail at the Arabian Gulf and a fourth at another new industrial port, Yanbu on the Red Sea. All these plants are ethylene-based.

Friday in Houston, Texas, he will sign an agreement for a methanol plant also to be built at Jubail, with the American Chemicals and Texas Eastern Companies.

Mr. Gosabi ended a two-day Washington visit yesterday.

Mr. Gosabi said that coordination is in the early stages to avoid duplication of industrial projects in the oil-rich countries along the Gulf.

For instance, he said, there are aluminum smelters in Bahrain and Dubai and Saudi Arabia is going slow on plans for its own smelter until it sees results from those two.

Saudi Arabia is the sensible place to build the plants. Mr. Gosabi said, because of the availability of crude oil and now-flared natural gas for fuel and raw material.

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He said a Gulf industrial organisation has been set up in Doha, Qatar to coordinate industrial projects in the area and that Saudi Arabia has invited planning ministers of Gulf nations to meet in Ryad in 1979 to discuss development plans.

W. Germany expresses inability to meet

U.S. pleas for help as dollar plummets

BONN, Feb. 23 (R). — As the dollar plunged even lower on anxious foreign exchange markets today, West Germany said it was unable to meet pleas from Washington to help the situation by boosting its

The Americans argue that their economy is growing and taking in imports while other economies are growing more slowly and are failing to import enough.

But the West German economics minister said his government had done all it could to try and stimulate growth.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Jordanian fils	
Buying	Selling
U.S. dollar	310.00/312.00
U.K. sterling	605.00/609.00
W. German mark	152.00/152.20
Swiss franc	169.20/170.10
French franc	64.50/64.90
Italian lire (for every 100)	36.30/36.50
Japanese yen (for every 100)	130.10/130.90
Belgian franc (for every ten)	97.20/97.90
Swedish crown	67.10/67.50

our DAILY HOROSCOPE

the CARROLL RIGTER INSTITUTE

VERAL TENDENCIES: A considerable number of things are likely to arise, but you have the cleverness to handle them out sensibly and intelligently. Avoid getting into absurd lengths on any situation that arises for you to interfere with right decisions.

ES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get down to business and projects you have prolonged for too long. Don't let your co-worker hamper you.

URUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't even think about getting into your work is done. Think of a new way to loved one. Show more gumption, too.

MINI (May 21 to June 21) You can easily improve the security at home provided you use reason. Security is important now. Strive for more goodwill in the outside world, also. Handle business affairs wisely.

ON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Get your own settled before you think of helping friends and relatives. You have to be extra careful in motion of any kind, as chances where health is concerned.

(July 22 to Aug. 21) Take care you do not commit yourself financially beyond your ability to handle it. Use your sense about money and don't rely so much on intuition, which may be faulty now.

GO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You have to get rid of that sense you have if you are to make real progress in your life. Be true to loyal friends.

RA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Whatever personal worries you can be solved by sensible thinking and help right persons. Get others to appreciate you more, be a doormat.

SPICIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Know who your real friends are and those who are only time and money takers and weed them out. Get into the social whirl that does you. Don't forget to pay pressing bills.

ITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Any civic problems worked out to your benefit if you are clever in handling them now. You have work to do that you don't particularly like, but get it done just the same.

RICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get stumbling blocks the way of your progress where some a new plan is needed. Show that you are thinking constructively, Do something to improve health appreciably.

JARUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Find a more modern approach to which to handle responsibilities more gently. Be more aware of the needs and desires of one.

ES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Showing more kindness towards partners will bring more accord and as well. See what develops and then act at the time.

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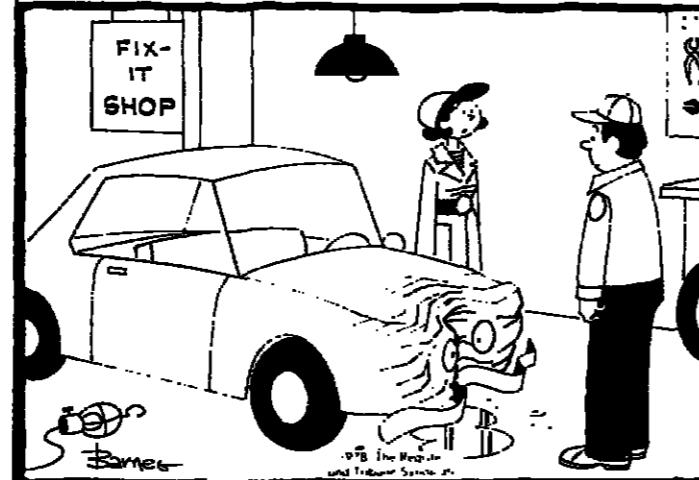
Telephone 41083

GRAFFITI

OLD TAXES NEVER DIE,
THEY JUST TURN UP
UNDER DIFFERENT
NAMES

THE BETTER HALF

By Barnes



"And could you say on the bill, 'to focus headlights'?"

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6 : 18:30 Guernica
18:30 News in Arabic
22:00 News in Arabic
Channel 3 : 05:00 News 24 Hours
05:15 Arabic News
05:45 Arabic programme
11:45 Arabic programme
12:20 Video on the news
12:30 Secrets of the sea
13:10 Animated classics
14:30 Soccer match
14:45 Arabic play
15:20 12th Floor Party
16:10 Arabic series
17:10 Man builds man desk
18:45 Arabic series
19:30 Arabic play

18:30 Guernica
18:30 News in Arabic
22:00 News in Arabic
Channel 6 : 18:30 Religious programme
18:30 Religious series
21:00 Peppa Pig
21:30 What's New
07:00 News; 24 Hours
07:30 World News
08:45 Merchant Navy
08:50 News; Reflections
08:50 Schmalz plays Beethoven
08:50 Take it or Leave it
08:50 News; French Review
09:15 News; French Review
09:30 Financial News
09:45 Music Now
10:15 Merchant Navy
10:30 Science in Action
11:00 News; News about Britain
11:15 Face of England
11:30 Bob Hobson
12:00 Radio Newsreel
12:15 My Music
12:45 Sports Round-up
13:00 News; 24 Hours
13:00 Pop session
13:30 News summary
13:30 Pop session

18:30 News bulletin
14:00 News bulletin
14:30 Travels of Ibn Battuta
15:00 Concert hour
16:00 Pop session
17:00 Jordan weekly
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RADIO JORDAN

7:00 Morning show
7:30 News bulletin
8:00 Morning show
10:00 News headlines
10:15 Folk angle
10:30 12th Floor Party
11:30 Lipstick choice
12:00 News headlines
13:00 News summary
13:05 Pop session

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Israel single biggest recipient of \$ 4.14 b. in U.S. military aid

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (R). — The Carter administration has announced plans to spend \$4.14 billion in military assistance to 49 countries. Most of the money was earmarked for countries in the Middle East, with Israel remaining the biggest single recipient.

Administration officials said the figure represented a cut in real terms of 13 per cent on last year's total, in line with President Carter's declared policy of reducing arms sales abroad.

The military assistance budget for the fiscal year beginning next Oct. 1 was presented yesterday to Congress, where moves have also been made to cut military aid.

Under the plans, Israel would get \$1 billion in easy-to-

raise foreign military sales (FMS) financing and \$785 million in the direct payments known as security supporting assistance.

Editorial comment -- p. 2

Egypt would receive assistance worth a total of \$750.4 million, Jordan of \$275 million and Syria of \$90 million.

Canada's new spy scandal

OTTAWA, Feb. 23 (R). — The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) instructed an American agent to eavesdrop on Canada's chief law enforcement officer, according to a sworn statement released here. The agent was named as Warren Hart, 49, of Durham, North Carolina. He said in the statement he was a former agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) who had worked for the RCMP between 1971 and 1975. The statement said Hart was ordered to tape-record Canada's then Solicitor General, Warren Allmand, and a leftwing politician, John Rodriguez, during conversations they held with a black militant called "Rosie." As Solicitor General, Mr. Allmand was responsible for the RCMP, which is already embroiled in a scandal over "dirty tricks" spying activities in Canada. The affidavit was released by Canadian opposition politician Elmer MacKay, a critic of the government who last year told a shocked parliament that a bugging device had been found in a chair in his office.

U.S.-Panama treaties tied up with alleged narcotics trafficking

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (R). — The U.S. Senate yesterday ended more than 12 hours of secret debate on Panamanian leaders' alleged involvement in narcotics trafficking, with opponents of the Panama Canal treaties threatening to keep the issue alive.

The unusual debate behind locked and guarded doors focused on a Senate intelligence committee report which said there was no evidence against Panamanian head of state Omar Torrijos that he

would stand up in court. But the report, made public on Tuesday, said there was reliable evidence that Gen. Torrijos knew about narcotics trafficking by government officials and did not take sufficient action to stop the activities of his brother Moises.

Mr. Moises Torrijos, now Ambassador to Spain, was indicted by a New York grand jury in 1972 on charges of smuggling 70 kgs. of heroin into the United States. Details of the indictment were made public on Tuesday night.

The Tripoli government said the fighting in Chad was an

French opinion poll gives leftists clear victory in elections

PARIS, Feb. 23 (R). — A public opinion poll published today said the opposition left-wing parties stood to win next month's French general elections by 13 seats from the ruling centre-right coalition.

According to the poll, published in the pro-government *L'Aurore* newspaper, the Socialists, Communists and left-wing Radicals were likely to take 252 seats in the French National Assembly. The centre-right parties were tipped to gain 238.

With the elections 17 days away the poll said 49 per cent of those asked intended to vote for the left, compared with 46 per cent for the centre-right and five per cent for other groups.

Two weeks ago 47 per cent of those asked said they would vote for the left while 45 per cent said they supported the centre-right.

In another development, French Prime Minister Raymond Barre yesterday rejected Socialist allegations that the government was using French embassies abroad to gather proxy voters for ruling parties in next month's elections.

"It is clear that neither the Foreign Affairs administration nor the government can be accused of having taken part in a fraud," Mr. Barre said in a statement published in the official *Government Gazette*.

Exhaustive enquiries in 16 capitals where there are large French colonies had shown no evidence of abuses, he said. There had been some irregularities in the mailing of proxy voting forms from the embassy in Libreville, Gabon, last week, and the Ambassador to Gabon, M. Maurice Delamare, was recalled to Paris to help with official inquiries, M. Barre said.

The Socialists Party charged in December that the government was using its embassies to win votes of thousands of French citizens living abroad, and direct them towards marginal constituencies where the ballots could tip the balance in the elections.

U.S. will send \$1m. worth of "non-lethal" ware to Ethiopia

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (Agencies) — The United States has released \$1 million worth of trucks and spare parts for shipment to Ethiopia, but has blocked the export of "lethal" military equipment until the war in the Horn of Africa ends.

The State Department said yesterday Ethiopia, fighting Somali troops and guerrillas in a month-long siege of the Eritrean capital of Asmara with a thrust to the south, but they were halted nine kms. outside the city.

Mr. Habtegiorgis Abraha, a spokesman for the Eritrean Li-

beration Front, said the 10,000 Ethiopian troops had crossed a counter-offensive two days ago towards the ELF-held town of Mendefera, 54 kms. south of the provincial capital.

Extremists repulse attack

In a separate development, an Eritrean guerrilla spokesman in Rome said today Ethiopian troops tried to break a month-long siege of the Eritrean capital of Asmara with a thrust to the south, but they were halted nine kms. outside the city.

Mr. Habtegiorgis Abraha, a spokesman for the Eritrean Li-

beration Front, said the 10,000 Ethiopian troops had crossed a counter-offensive two days ago towards the ELF-held town of Mendefera, 54 kms. south of the provincial capital.

He said ELF troops fought them just outside the city and turned back the attack, with "thousands of casualties" to the ELF troops. He also claimed an American-made jet fighter was shot down by ELF troops.

Belgrade's conference on European security likely to end without meaningful communique

BELGRADE, Feb. 23 (R). — Western, Eastern and neutral countries at the deadlocked European security conference have virtually abandoned the search for a substantial final declaration and are drawing up versions of a final communique without any real political content, diplomats said last night.

They said the West had tentatively drafted a proposal for a brief final statement because the Soviet Bloc would not agree to any substantial declaration.

The Soviet Bloc has also prepared a draft for a brief communique, and neutral and non-aligned nations have drawn up a slightly longer proposal for the final statement.

The 35-nation gathering opened its final stage on Jan. 17 and was due to end by mid-February.

Most diplomats now expect the conference to end in early

March after failing to agree on an assessment of the results of the 1975 Helsinki accords. The accords on political and military detente, economic cooperation, human rights and broader human rights issues.

A senior Western diplomat said yesterday: "The odds are now heavily against any substantive document emanating from the conference since Helsinki and containing new concrete measures to promote democracy."

The Soviet Union had

Tuesday rejected a draft

summarizing the progress made by the 35-nation gathering. It opened its final stage on Jan. 17 and was due to end by mid-February.

Diplomats said the time for real negotiations has passed and it was now too late for any meaningful agreement to be reached.

World News Briefs

Cambodia reports more clashes with Vietcong

BANGKOK, Feb. 23 (R). — Cambodian forces killed 27 Vietnamese soldiers in border clashes this week, Radio Phnom Penh said today. The radio, monitored here, said 15 Vietnamese soldiers were killed and several wounded in a battle on Chau district of the Parrot's Beak area on Monday. Ten Vietnamese were killed during a clash the next day at a village in the northwest province of Rattanakiri, the radio added. Two Vietnamese soldiers were killed yesterday in fighting in the same area. Some of the Hanoi troops were killed or wounded when they stepped on land mines planted by Cambodian troops, the radio reported.

Tunisia said will try union leader

BRUSSELS, Feb. 23 (R). — Herr Otto Kersten, Secretary General of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), said yesterday Tunisia planned to put detained union leader Hedi Achour on trial. Herr Kersten, who returned from a five-day visit to Tunisia on Tuesday night, quoted Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Nouira as saying that charges were being finalized against Mr. Achour and other union leaders. The leaders were detained after at least 47 people died in rioting during a one-day national strike three weeks ago called by the Tunisian General Workers Union (UGTT), of which Mr. Achour was Secretary General. Herr Kersten told a press conference in Brussels he was allowed a half-hour meeting with Mr. Achour on Tuesday. "I want a trial," he quoted Mr. Achour as saying. "I am convinced that I can prove I am not guilty of the charges of the ministers of Mr. Nouira's cabinet say I am."

Teng may be named China's premier Sunday

TOKYO, Feb. 23 (AP). — China's new parliament meets Sunday amid speculation it may name Mr. Teng Hsiao-ping minister and give party Chairman Hua Kuo-feng the additional of chief of state. Its main job, however, will be to hammer out final bills into the power structure erected labouriously by Communist Party moderates in the wake of Mao Tse-tung's death and the crushing of the party's radicals a month ago.

2,800 delegates to the Fifth National People's Congress will discuss, debate and, almost certainly, confirm the party's choice of a new cabinet, possibly revise the Constitution to re-elect the chief of state's job abolished a decade ago, approve a budget and an ambitious economic plan calling for rapid modernisation by the year 2000. The last congress, held in January 1975, approved the modernisation plan laid down by late Premier Chou En-lai. It was stalled, however, by radical position of Chou En-lai and the struggle for its centering around ways to carry it out.

U.K. bans National Front London march

LONDON, Feb. 23 (R). — An election march planned in the London suburb of Ilford by the neo-Fascist National Front for today has been banned for security reasons, Scotland Yard said last night. Mr. Martin Webster, organiser of the anti-Semitic National Front, said it would hold a mass canvassing instead.

U.S. Judge Webster becomes FBI director

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (AP). — Mr. William H. Webster, 51, takes charge of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation today, hoping to polish the bureau's tarnished image for a lack of law enforcement once again. U.S. President Jimmy Carter was scheduled to attend the swearing-in ceremony in the building that is named for J. Edgar Hoover, the symbol of the bureau's past. Mr. Webster, a former Federal Appeals judge, becomes director at a difficult time for the enforcement agency has been tarnished by disclosures of illegal or improper acts by FBI agents, including break-ins, illegal taps and political harassment.

Except for the resulting political furore Larnaca Airport's affair is all confusion

By George A. Krimsky

NICOSIA (AP) — The bloody clash between Egyptian and Cypriot forces at Larnaca Airport ended a 33-hour terrorist escapade. But it aroused a political furore over whether one country can violate another's sovereignty to fight international terrorism.

Egypt is angry because its commandos met fierce resistance from "friendly" forces when it believed that the extraordinary circumstances of a prolonged terrorist act, aimed at Egyptian interests, was enough justification to intervene on foreign soil.

Cyprus, somewhat less angry, is nevertheless upset about what it believed to be deliberate deception and the "violation of Cypriot sovereignty" by Egypt.

The political furore is enmeshed in confusion and disagreement over what really happened after two Arabs assassinated a prominent Egyptian newspaper editor, seized hostages and tried in vain to find a safe haven.

Two Arabs, carrying Kuwaiti and Iraqi passports, came to Cyprus with the apparent intention of killing Youssef Sibai, friend of President Anwar Sadat and Editor-in-Chief of Cairo's authoritative daily, Al Ahram. They waited four days for the right moment.

Shortly before noon on Saturday, one of the gunmen surrendered up to the 60-year-old Mr. Sibai in the Cyprus Hilton, shouted at him in Arabic and pumped three bullets into him at point-blank range.

The pair, wielding pistols and a grenade, then rounded up about 30 hostages and herded them into the hotel car-

peteria. There, they separated the hostages, released the non-Arabs and bound the hands of the Arabs with their own neckties.

The remaining 17 hostages, all members of an Afro-Asian Solidarity Conference chaired by the assassinated Egyptian, were then led to a bus that took them to Larnaca Airport, some 30 miles south.

Cyprus provides plane

At the airport, the gunmen persuaded the government of President Spyros Kyprianou to provide a Cyprus Airways plane and crew to fly them off the island. At first, Mr. Kyprianou refused and demanded that the pair release all hostages. But, for unexplained reasons, he later relented.

The plane, manned by a crew of four, took off on Saturday evening with the gunmen hoping for sanctuary in sympathetic Arab country. Libya, regarded as friendly to Arab extremists, refused. So did Greece, Lebanon, Syria and South Yemen.

With less than an hour remaining in the DC-8's nine-hour fuel reserves, the crew proclaimed a "Mayday" emergency and landed in the tiny East African country of Djibouti. The government of Djibouti, while sympathetic to the crew and hostages, waded the plane to go elsewhere.

After it was refueled, the airliner took off with a destination of Algeria, one more country with proven sympathies for extremists. But the government of Mr. Houari Boumedienne refused to accept the plane.

The Cypriot government, having appealed to others to

take the aircraft for humanitarian reasons, then decided to try once again to free the hostages and arrest the terrorists.

President Kyprianou and Socialist Party leader Vassos Lyssarides, himself one of the early hostages, were negotiating from the Control Tower with the gunmen in the plane parked on the tarmac 150 metres in front of the terminal, on terms for a peaceful surrender and safe release of the hostages.

After two face-to-face meetings inside the plane between Mr. Lyssarides and the gunmen, "it was decided that the hostages would be freed and the gunmen arrested," Mr. Kyprianou said.

The terms of the surrender are a major point of controversy. Witnesses reported that the government was preparing Cypriot passports for the gunmen, apparently to allow them to leave the island. Officials even asked newsmen for a Polaroid camera to take passport snapshots.

Mr. Kyprianou "categorically" denied that his government offered the terrorists safe conduct out of the country in exchange for the hostages' freedom. One of the gunmen has publicly disputed that.

The one identified as Zayed Al Alali, 26, carrying a Kuwaiti passport, told the court on Monday during his arraignment for murder that such a deal had been made.

Egyptians attack

The Egyptian assault on the DC-8 began "almost immediately" after an agreement was reached to end the incident, despite our warning not to interfere," Mr. Kyprianou said later.

Mr. Lyssarides claimed the Egyptians "very well knew" an agreement had been reached to end the terrorist siege but attacked anyway.

The Egyptians deny this. Brig. Nabil Shukri, commander of the 74-man commando unit, told a press conference in Cairo on Tuesday they decided to intervene "because it was clear to us at 8 p.m. that negotiations with the gunmen were faltering."

The Cypriots blamed the Egyptian Military Attaché, Col. Farouk Takky, for specifically ordering the attack in full knowledge that it was not necessary.

The Egyptians deny this, but a senior government official in Cairo also said it was "inconceivable" the Cypriots did not know the commandos were.

The attack began at approximately 2010 local time, about two hours after the commandos landed. Police Chief Antoniou told reporters later that he tried to stop the troops from coming down the Hercules gangway but he was shoved aside.

A jeep with four commandos led the attack with an undetermined number of soldiers following on foot behind.

Although hundreds of Cypriot National Guardsmen and police sharpshooters were at the ready, they did not immediately open fire. It was not until the jeep got within a few metres of the DC-8 and started shooting with machine-guns into the open door of the passenger liner that Cypriot forces opened fire.

Kyprianou under fire

The delay in reacting to the Egyptian assault has not been explained.

Mr. Kyprianou and others said the Control Tower, where the president and others were observing, came under fire from the Egyptians. It was not clear whether Cypriot forces opened fire after or before that incident.

In any case, once the order was given, Cypriot reaction was swift and tough.

A National Guardsman near the besieged plant tossed a hand grenade into the lead jeep, killing all four commandos inside. Cypriot marksmen cut down commandos advancing on foot.

At the same time, guardsmen opened fire on the giant transport plane. One shall, believed to be an anti-tank bazooka shell, demolished the nose of the Hercules, spilling the nose of the Hercules, spilling the nose of the Hercules.

Commandos in and around the plane ran in all directions, about 40 of them took refuge inside a Cyprus Airways passenger jet that had arrived from Tel Aviv only minutes before the outbreak.

The shooting died down about 9:10 p.m. and nearly two hours later the commandos in the airliner surrendered.

Meanwhile, the terrorists had surrendered to their plane crew as soon as the battle started. The Cypriot government refused to hand them over to the Egyptians, charged them on Monday with premeditated murder, and said they would be tried. The two terrorists could get the death penalty.

John C. Lippman